



Governor Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor Adam Gregg
San Wong, Director

State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council

First Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Friday, August 13th 2021

[10 AM – 5PM] - All Members – Statewide

Forest Lake Camp, 11732 Copperhead, Bloomfield, IA 52537

Present: A. King, E. Johnson, F. Olawoye, H. Dillehay, J. Piazza, K. Jones, K. Castillo, L. Roarick, L. Glenn, M. Malik, R. Roach, S. Koh, S. Polking, T. Geisemann., V. Adovor

Absent: A. Jarayam, K. Hesselink, P. Bassuk, B. Koumondiji, G. Huffstutler, T. Voeller

1. Welcome and Roll Call

At 10:03 AM, J. Piazza called the meeting into order.

L. Roarick took attendance

R. Roach motioned to approve 8/7/21 meeting minutes, seconded by K. Jones

J. Piazza introduced our upcoming agenda items, and reminded us to engage with visiting legislators.

R. Roach inquired about our upcoming agenda items.

T. Mosley introduced our icebreaker with SIYAC members

T. Mosley introduced our second ice breaker, the question being asked to members “What is your catchphrase?”

2. Camp Overview and Rules

At 10:16 AM, J. Piazza introduced the heads of Forest Lake Camp Shawn and Theresa Ott’s

S. Otts spoke about the general rules guidelines of Forest Lake Camp including

- what do if you see wildlife, including bears
- do not leave food outdoors, throw it away appropriately
- Lifejackets required when on boats, kayaks, etc

T. Mosley proceeds to talk about her experience at Forest Lake Camp



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3. Mentor and Mentee Activity: Scavenger Hunt

At 10:24 AM, J.Piazza introduced our Scavenger Hunt activity, taking place in Forest Lake Camp

J.Piazza hands out scavenger hunt sheets to mentors, <second and third year members>

T. Mosley communicates contact information, and SIYAC members head out

K. Spies reminds group to be back at 10:50 AM

4. Meeting with Senator Dickey

At 10:55 AM, J.Piazza has the group reconvene

J.Piazza encourages SIYAC members to be mindful with Senator Dickey's arrival, and think of questions for the Q+A portion of the discussion

J.Piazza introduces Senator Dickey, and gives background on his career

Senator Dickey starts discussion, on his election career, and his first year in the Senate with also family and job background

Senator Dickey opens discussion and Q + A

L.Glenn introduces herself as an Ottumwa citizen, and asks Dickey what he feels are pressing issues concerning young people

Senator Dickey answers by returning the question

L.Glenn talks about Menstrual Taxation, and gender equity

Senator Dickey discusses how gender equity can be seen from many perspectives, and is a common discussion currently. He continues to give examples of different perspectives and compromises that need to be made during political process

J.Piazza asks about how Senator Dickey navigates different political compasses and perspectives, including Diversity of thought



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Senator Dickey answers by discussing how the legislation and general assembly works, and how he has a limited perspective on the many bills that go through, so he tries to see the many sides of the issue, and involve experts on the issue for greater understanding

V. Adovor asks how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the Senate and general assembly, along with Iowa businesses

Senator Dickey answers by talking about how the Capital has looked different this year, even as a new member as a Senator it is not a new environment for him to be involved in. The lack of lobbyists around the Capital was a disappointment to him, along with lack of in person involvement of Clerks. He discuss the lack of social events, that often moved bills forward

J.Piazza asks how his ability to reach constituents has been affected by COVID-19

Senator Dickey answers by saying he did a lot of more online forums, online communication with email and call

R.Roach asks what the most effective way to talk to legislators is

Senator Dickey discusses how emails are often utilized and they will be read, but he often lacks a response due to the amount of people that email. He suggests keeping emails brief, and original. In his perspective, the best way to reach a legislator is through mail and a stamp, because it is a personal way to do outreach.

F. Olawoye asks how Senator Dickey uplift rural voices, since they can be hard to reach

Senator Dickey informs the group on this rule of thought, that 90% of Iowa is rural area, and that makes for lots of rural legislators, which turns out to be that in his opinion the general assembly is in favor of rural areas instead of metropolitan areas create a lack of a problem

K. Castillo asks about initiatives to help rural poverty, and ideas

Senator Dickey talks about the passing of tax deduction bills that in his perspective benefit everybody, including rural areas and lower income people. He talks about how federal programs that are above him contribute to helping rural poverty out, and his lack of control over that

R. Roach asks if any education curriculum about civics engagement is a priority for Senator Dickey, or in Iowa



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Senator Dickey discusses a high school class, government, that can help young people understand civic responsibility and agrees that not many people in America know about the legislative process which is a problem. He is glad to take on intimacies about this issue, and refers to R.Roach to Senator Sinclair

F. Olawoye asks about Senator Dickey's initiatives to make himself more accessible to youth

Senator Dickey talks about events and forums that he tries to include all demographics. He discusses how legislators are younger than he has seen in his perspective, and that he feels that the youth voice not being heard is not accurate

F. Olawoye responds by clarifying that even if it is not accurate that perception is still prevalent among youth, and how important it is to reach out and take initiative because people in certain situations will not do that themselves

Senator Dickey responds further by agreeing that it is sad that people feel they aren't heard, but it can't be his responsibility as a legislator to figure out the issue and reach out himself with all the constituents in his area

J.Piazza asks about how we should reach out to people our age who perceive that the legislative process does not care for them, in turn they don't care for government

Senator Dickey discusses helping them engage in local politics and issues first, but has no further input believing that if general assembly had answers, they would be exploiting that population currently

R.Roach asks what graduate degrees Senator Dickey received from University of Northern Iowa

Senator Dickey answers with Business

L.Glenn asks the difference in between being on the sidelines of the legislative process and being a legislator

Senator Dickey discusses that as a legislator his words mean a lot more, and he needs to always follow up with lobbyists as a legislator, instead of being able to change his mind as someone just politically involved instead. He also was impressed by the religious presence that the Capital had



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T. Geisemann asks about a recent bill Senator Dickey passed, contributing grants to EMS and Firefighters

Senator Dickey discusses the lack of budget rural emergency services have, and creating grant programs for fire departments to get training to these teams of mainly volunteer firefighters. This also includes tax credits, and the Head Fire Chief can set guidelines for this tax credit as well to incentivize volunteers to help firefight and get training, the full bill has not been passed, and he continues to work on it.

T. Geisemann comments in response that tools for firefighters are just as needed in his opinion

Senator Dickey discusses that the bigger problem is getting volunteers to run the tools in the first place, but agrees that tools need more funding

T. Geisemann thanks him for his work

H. Dillehay asks if Senator Dickey's business classes were important for his legislative and business career

Senator Dickey responds by saying that business classes helped him understand the workplaces he found himself in, but wishes that political science classes were something he had taken

5. Lunch

At 11:58 AM, K. Powell introduces our lunch options and SIYAC members go get lunch

J.Piazza decides to do work lunch, and talks about election prep and upcoming positions

J.Piazza does an overview of positions, along with introducing S.Koh to talk about Service Chair

J.Piazza opens debate for where second quarterly should be held, guidelines being a town in Iowa

K. Castillo suggests Cedar Falls, IA

R. Roach suggests Iowa City, IA



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S. Polking suggests Carroll, IA

K. Castillo rescinds suggestion of Cedar Falls, IA

J. Piazza called for a Roll Call vote

A.King, K. Jones, L. Roarick, S.Polking, F. Olowaye vote Carroll

E. Johnson, H. Dillehay, J.Piazza, K. Castillo, L. Glenn, R. Roach, S. Koh, T. Geisemann, V. Adovor, M. Malik vote Iowa City

Iowa City wins majority, deciding the next location for Second Quarterly meeting, held tentatively on 11/15/21

6. Dimensions of Diversity

V. Adovor leads a discussion on the diversity wheel, a tool used to understand yourself and others better

V.Adovor asks people to look at pamphlet given to them

SIYAC members add input on what they perceive of the given pamphlet

V. Adovor has people talk about different parts of their primary identities, and the positives and negatives

R. Roach, F. Olowaye, S. Polking, E. Johnson, M. Malik and K. Castillo share with the group

7. Meeting with Representative Westrich

At 1:03 PM, J. Piazza introduces Representative Westrich

Representative Westrich discusses her role as legislator and what the role means to her. She speaks to the importance of the role, and how excited she is to see youth that are passionate about civics. Representative Westrich continues about her career besides being legislator, as a car builder and a small business owner.



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Representative Westrich presents on how the legislation and general assembly works, and the incentives that come with it. She talks about the need to be cooperative with others when time goes over, because of the love for Iowa.

Representative Westrich talks about meeting with her constituents every other Friday at a local business, to discuss what the people want, and admires SIYAC for the passion we have as the young people taking over these positions in the near future

Representative Westrich opens discussion to Q + A format

L. Roarick asks what sticks out at Representative Westrich's meetings with local constituents

Representative Westrich answers by saying that passion and personal connections with others make those meetings special for her

L. Glenn asks Representative Westrich about how COVID-19 affected her legislative session for her

Representative Westrich answers about how there was a lack of discussion between parties with COVID-19 guidelines, which surprised her

R. Roach asks how representative got involved in politics

Representative Westrich answers about how her poverty as a kid made her feel that only rich people involve themselves in politics, and how former U.S president Donald Trump as an outsider in politics got her more involved in politics because she realized outsiders can get involved. The Republican party then asked her to run, and realizing that in her perspective not money but donors run a campaign, she made that a second career for herself

F. Olwaye asks if there is overlap in perspective between Republicans and Democrats

Representative Westrich discusses how bills get passed, and how bills are killed and passed. When you love a bill, you bring it to subcommittee, and then full committee, which is integrated with both Republicans and Democrats creating often overlap in perspective and collective decision making

M. Malik asks if Representative Westrich has ever considered running for office in her home state Missouri



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Representative Westrich answers by discussing that she has made a home in Iowa, and while considering for running again, she has cultural capital here that she discusses lacking if she went back, since she would have to reinstate yourself

8. Presentation on Wapello County

At 1:32, J. Piazza introduces L. Glenn and K. Jones to present

L. Glenn speaks on the location of Wapello, and some main attractions to visit

K. Jones speaks on some industries in Ottumwa, IA

L. Glenn and K. Jones speak to opportunities that are available in the Ottumwa area

K. Jones shares fun facts about Ottumwa and Wapello County

L. Glenn opens for questions

T. Giesemann asks K. Jones about opportunities he is involved in

L. Roarick asks what L. Glenn and K. Jones favorite part of Ottumwa is

9. YPAR and 2021 SIYAC Strategy

At 1:47 PM, J. Piazza introduces our next presenters K. Powell, K. Spies, V. Adovor, and A. King

V. Adovor introduces the agenda items

K. Spies starts with an introduction to YPAR (Youth Participatory Action Research) , starting with the Youth (Y) having K. Powell write down what SIYAC's interpretation of the word Youth is

K Spies then moves to the word Participate (P) and SIYAC members interpretation of that word

K Spies then moves on to the word Action (A) and has SIYAC members interpret that word and share to K. Powell



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K. Spies then moves on to (R) Research

V. Adovor gives a mission statement on YPAR, and the focuses and passions of this initiative.

A. King shows photos of her previous Youth Action Squad she and V. Adovor participated on, and the success they had with YPAR

S. Koh shares with her success with YPAR as SIYAC Service chair the previous term

K. Castillo shares about SIYAC's previous public awareness campaign that used YPAR

K. Powell opens discussion on what YPAR will look like on SIYAC, and the difference between YPAR and traditional research

K. Powell presents a timeline for SIYAC and YPAR collaboration

V. Adovor presents how to collect information for these research projects, including focus groups, interviews, surveys, feedback walls, social medial polls, concept mapping

K. Powell leads SIYAC members through a concept mapping activity

K. Spies goes into more background on focus groups, including the guidelines of them

V. Adovor presents the importance of communication skills, including the questions being asked and answered, the tone of voice being used, as well of non verbal ways of communication

V. Adovor then goes further into active listening tips

K. Powell has SIYAC members separate into moch focus groups, and reflect on the process

A. King and V. Adovor present on surveys as a method of research

K. Powell presents on feedback walls as a method of research and it's positives with examples

K. Powell has SIYAC members do a mock feedback wall, with four different posed questions

A. King discusses other methods of YPAR and research, including social medial poll and the use of pre existing data



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K.Powell opens discussion on what SIYAC member favorites of methods of research were and who should be focused on

K. Powell then has SIYAC members form groups based on the method of research they plan on using, and hands out sheets to create a timeline and goals for using these methods

10. Lake Activities and Team Bonding

At 3:45 PM, SIYAC members got changed and went to a local lake at Forest Lake Camp for team bonding activities including canoeing, kayaking, and inflatables.

11. Adjournment

At 5:05 PM, T. Geisemann motioned to adjourn seconded by R. Roach